

# *Burlington Fire Department*

## *Office of the City Fire Marshal*

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Fire Alarm/Sprinkler/Plan Review

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Public Information & Education

Inspection Services

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### **For Immediate Release**

## **Burlington Flooding Update and Readiness Information**

As Lake Champlain is expected to remain at or above flood stage this week, the Burlington Fire Department urges city residents in flood – prone areas to maintain a high level of situational awareness. It appears from weather forecasts that rain will likely increase flooding over the next few days. Residents of the city are encouraged to take the following steps when in and around areas of flooding:

1. **Never drive through standing or flowing water** – You and your vehicle may become stranded, and there is no way of safely knowing the water depth or the condition of the road.
2. **Immediately call for assistance if your house begins to flood** – Do not delay in calling 911 to report this emergency. Any delay in notification prevents emergency workers from responding to your home and family in a timely manner. If your house is flooding and you need to be evacuated, call 911 immediately.
3. **Utility safety during a flood** – In the event that your electric and/or gas services become threatened by rising water levels in your home, call qualified professionals to assess the situation, and take protective action (such as a licensed electrician for electrical issues or VT Gas, Inc. for natural gas emergencies). Never de-energize or re-energize an electrical service, or restore a fuel source that has been involved in flooding. This work must be done by a qualified professional in consultation with local authorities. Electricity and water are a deadly combination – call an electrician or your power company and keep yourself safe!
4. **Be prepared for evacuation** – Prepare your family for a possible evacuation by assembling an emergency kit containing items that will help your family live for at least three days away from your home. Should local authorities order an evacuation of your neighborhood, your family will be ready and able to deal with the temporary move away from home until water levels subside.

For additional flood safety information, refer to the Vermont Emergency Management website at:

<http://vem.vermont.gov/> or <http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html>.

In the event that Burlington residents who live in flood – prone areas require assistance, they are encouraged to call 911 if in the case of an emergency to request the Burlington Fire Department immediately. Residents are also advised to contact the Department of Public Works at **863-9094 (beginning on Wednesday, May 4)** if they require sand and sandbags, to report damage caused by flooding, or other information on obtaining resources.

## **END**

**Date and Time of Release:**

3 May 2011 @ 1700 hours

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